Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 17, wherein the acoustic sensors are arranged in a straight line.

Claims 3-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 30, wherein the optical marking system is created by at least two light sources, which in each case emits a characteristic light beam from the sound pickup device in the direction of the set position of the sound source within a respective predetermined zone for the most favorable sound pickup.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 24, further comprising delay elements associated with individual ones or all of said acoustic sensors, said delay elements equalizing acoustic transmission times from the sound source to the acoustic sensors.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 43, wherein the acoustic sensors are displaced and/or pivoted individually and a displacement and/or pivoting drive is controlled by automatic position detection of the sound source.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 17, wherein the activity and/or the position of the sound source is determined by a correlator, to which are supplied the signals of the acoustic sensors or the position of the sound source is determined by measuring the time difference of zero crossings of the signals of different acoustic sensors.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 13, wherein the electric signals of the acoustic-electric transducers, following digitization, are supplied to a digital signal processor, which executes the functions of an adder, and/or one or more delay elements, and/or the correlator.

Claims 15-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): A sound pickup device for a public address system comprising:

at least two acoustic sensors for simultaneously picking up sound emitted from a sound source and converting into electric signals, said acoustic sensors being spaced from a useful zone from which useful signals emanate, said acoustic sensors having directional characteristics and being oriented so that the axes of their main reception directions are directed towards a reference position within the useful zone, said acoustic sensors being arranged with differing spacing to the reference position, the reference position corresponding to an ideal set position of

the sound source, and directional vectors between said reference position and the acoustic sensors point in different directions;

a common signal amplitude add device electrically or acoustically connected to said acoustic sensors, said add device combining the electrical signals received from all the acoustic sensors; and

delay elements associated with individual ones or all of said acoustic sensors, said delay elements equalizing acoustic transmission times from the sound source to the acoustic sensors;

wherein said delay elements have a delay time controlled by automatic position detection of the sound source and only the delay time of the delay elements is automatically adjusted individually with respect to each acoustic sensor to a modification of the actual position of the sound source without adjusting the arrangement of the acoustic sensors or their main reception directions.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The sound pickup device according to claim 17 further comprising additional transmission

elements whose transmission coefficients are adjustable to a consistent signal level of all acoustic sensors.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A sound pickup device for a public address system comprising:

at least two acoustic sensors for simultaneously picking up sound emitted from a sound source and converting into electric signals, said acoustic sensors being spaced from a useful zone from which useful signals emanate, said acoustic sensors having directional characteristics and being oriented so that the axes of their main reception directions are directed towards a reference position within the useful zone, said acoustic sensors being arranged with differing spacing to the reference position, the reference position corresponding to an ideal set position of the sound source, and directional vectors between said reference position and the acoustic sensors point in different directions;

a common signal amplitude add device electrically or acoustically connected to said acoustic sensors, said add device combining the electrical signals received from all the acoustic sensors; and

delay elements associated with individual ones or all of said acoustic sensors, said delay elements equalizing acoustic transmission times from the sound source to the acoustic sensors

wherein the activity and/or the position of the sound source is determined by a correlator, to which are supplied the signals of the acoustic sensors or the position of the sound source is determined by measuring the time difference of zero crossings of the signals of different acoustic sensors.

Claims 20-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): The sound pickup device according to claim ~~22~~ 19, wherein the electric signals of the acoustic-electric transducers, following digitization, are supplied to a digital signal processor, which executes the functions of an adder, and/or one or more delay elements, and/or the correlator.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A sound pickup device for a public address system comprising:

at least two acoustic sensors for simultaneously picking up sound emitted from a sound source and converting into electric signals, said acoustic sensors being spaced from a useful zone from which useful signals emanate, said acoustic sensors having directional characteristics and being oriented so that the axes of their main reception directions are directed towards a reference position within the useful zone, said acoustic sensors being arranged with the same spacing from the reference position, the reference position corresponding to an ideal set position of the sound source, and directional vectors between said reference position and the acoustic sensors point in different directions; and

a common signal amplitude add device electrically or acoustically connected to said acoustic sensors, said add device combining the electrical signals received from all the acoustic sensors;

wherein the activity and/or the position of the sound source is determined by a correlator, to which are supplied the signals of the acoustic sensors or the position of the sound source is

determined by measuring the time difference of zero crossings of the signals of different acoustic sensors.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 17, further comprising a control device, said control device sending commands for individually adjusting the axes of the main reception directions of the acoustic sensors in response to automatic position detection of the sound source without mechanical displacement or pivoting of the acoustic sensors.

Claim 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): The sound pickup device according to claim ~~26~~ 24, wherein the electric signals of the acoustic-electric transducers, following digitization, are supplied to a digital signal processor, which executes the functions of an adder, and/or one or more delay elements, and/or the correlator.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 24, wherein the acoustic sensors are designed

as segments of a one-, two-, or three dimensional directional elongated acoustic-electric transducer, whose surface at least approximately, or in a section, corresponds to a circular or spherical element.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The sound pickup device according to claim 10 further comprising additional transmission elements whose transmission coefficients are adjustable to a consistent signal level of all acoustic sensors.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 17 further comprising an optical marking for indicating the ideal set position of the sound source.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 19 further comprising an optical marking for indicating the ideal set position of the sound source.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 24 further comprising an optical marking for indicating the ideal set position of the sound source.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 19, wherein the arrangement of the acoustic sensors and/or their main receiving directions and/or the delay time of the delay elements is automatically adjusted to a modification of the actual position of the sound source so that the reference position of the sound recording device follows the actual position of the sound source.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 31, wherein the optical marking system is created by at least two light sources, which in each case emits a characteristic light beam from the sound pickup device in the direction of the set position of the sound source within a respective predetermined zone for the most favorable sound pickup.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 32, wherein the optical marking system is created by at least two light sources, which in each case emits a characteristic light beam from the sound pickup device in the direction of the set position of the sound source within a

respective predetermined zone for the most favorable sound pickup.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 33, further comprising a control device, said control device sending commands for individually adjusting the axes of the main reception directions of the acoustic sensors in response to automatic position detection of the sound source without mechanical displacement or pivoting of the acoustic sensors.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 19, wherein the acoustic sensors are designed as segments of a one-, two-, or three dimensional directional elongated acoustic-electric transducer, whose surface at least approximately, or in a section, corresponds to a circular or spherical element.

Claim 38 (previously presented) The sound pickup device according to claim 19 further comprising additional transmission elements whose transmission coefficients are adjustable to a consistent signal level of all acoustic sensors.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 13 further comprising a threshold value detector connected to the correlator, and a switch having a switch control input at a switching output of the threshold value detector, said correlator having an output connected via the threshold value detector with the switch control input to automatically connect the output of the common signal amplitude add device to a public address system when a correlation factor indicates acoustic activity within the useful zone.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The sound pickup device according to claim ~~22~~ 19 further comprising a threshold value detector connected to the correlator, and a switch having a switch control input at a switching output of the threshold value detector, said correlator having an output connected via the threshold value detector with the switch control input to automatically connect the output of the common signal amplitude add device to a public address system when a correlation factor indicates acoustic activity within the useful zone.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The sound pickup device according to claim ~~26~~ 24 further comprising a threshold value

detector connected to the correlator, and a switch having a switch control input at a switching output of the threshold value detector, said correlator having an output connected via the threshold value detector with the switch control input to automatically connect the output of the common signal amplitude add device to a public address system when a correlation factor indicates acoustic activity within the useful zone.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 19, wherein the acoustic sensors are arranged in a straight line.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 24, further comprising delay elements associated with individual ones or all of said acoustic sensors,, wherein the arrangement of the acoustic sensors and/or their main receiving directions and/or the delay time of the delay elements is automatically adjusted to a modification of the actual position of the sound source so that the reference position of the sound recording device follows the actual position of the sound source.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 10, further comprising a control device, said control device sending commands for individually adjusting the axes of the main reception directions of the acoustic sensors in response to automatic position detection of the sound source without mechanical displacement or pivoting of the acoustic sensors.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 24, wherein the acoustic sensors are arranged in a straight line.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 19 wherein the acoustic sensors are constructed as inlets of acoustic waveguides which lead to one or more common acoustic-electric transducers.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 24 wherein the acoustic sensors are constructed as inlets of acoustic waveguides which lead to one or more common acoustic-electric transducers.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 19 wherein said delay elements have a delay time controlled by automatic position detection of the sound source and only the delay time of the delay elements is automatically adjusted individually with respect to each acoustic sensor to a modification of the actual position of the sound source without adjusting the arrangement of the acoustic sensors or their main reception directions.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The sound pickup device according to claim 10 wherein said delay elements have a delay time controlled by automatic position detection of the sound source and only the delay time of the delay elements is automatically adjusted individually with respect to each acoustic sensor to a modification of the actual position of the sound source without adjusting the arrangement of the acoustic sensors or their main reception directions.